

REMARKS

Claims 13-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 have been canceled, and claims 13-32 have been newly added. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating the acceptability of the drawings filed on September 16, 2003, and for considering all of the documents listed in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 13, 2004, August 5, 2005 and September 12, 2005.

As another matter, Applicants note that the Examiner has not yet acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority, or receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents (Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2002-284164 and 2003-305258). Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge Applicants' claim for foreign priority, as well as receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents in the next Official communication. If for some reason there are any issues outstanding regarding Applicants' claim for foreign priority, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner notify Applicants in this regard.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, and under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hillis et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0086188).

Applicants have canceled claim 1-12, merely to expedite prosecution of the present application to issue. Thus, cancellation of these claims should not be viewed as an acquiescence by Applicants to the propriety of the rejections.

Applicants have added new claims 13-32 for the Examiner's consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13-32 are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' independent claim 13 recites a data processing apparatus which includes, inter alia, a component database that stores a plurality of processing components, each of which performs a predetermined process. The component database also stores a plurality of type determining functions, corresponding to the plurality of processing components, and a plurality of type determining function entries that refer to the plurality of type determining functions.

The data processing apparatus also includes a determiner that searches through the plurality of processing components by reading at least one of the plurality of type determining function entries, reading at least one type determining function referred to by the at least one read type determining function entry, and determining whether a stored processing component corresponding to the at least one read type determining function is suitable for use as a processing component.

Applicants' independent claim 22 recites a data processing method which includes, inter alia, storing, in a component database, a plurality of processing components, each of which performs a predetermined process, a plurality of type

determining functions, corresponding to the plurality of processing components, and a plurality of type determining function entries that refer to the plurality of type determining functions.

The method also includes searching through the plurality of processing components by reading at least one of the plurality of type determining function entries, reading at least one type determining function referred to by the at least one read type determining function entry, and determining whether a stored processing component corresponding to the at least one read type determining function is suitable for use as a processing component.

Applicants' independent claim 28 recites a computer-readable medium which stores a data processing program. The program includes, *inter alia*, storing code that stores, in a component database, a plurality of processing components, each of which performs a predetermined process, a plurality of type determining functions, corresponding to the plurality of processing components, and a plurality of type determining function entries that refer to the plurality of type determining functions.

The program also includes searching code that searches through the plurality of processing components by reading at least one of the plurality of type determining function entries, reading at least one type determining function referred to by the at least one read type determining function entry, and determining whether a stored processing component corresponding to the at least one read type determining function is suitable for use as a processing component.

Hillis relates to a system for organizing knowledge in such a way that users can find it, learn from it, and add to it as needed. See paragraph [0002] of Hillis, for example. At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Hillis teaches a database which includes a type determining function that determines a component suitable for processing based on file information of a file, citing paragraphs [0354] to [0357] of Hillis for support. The Examiner does not explain this assertion, and upon reviewing the cited paragraphs of Hillis, it is not at all apparent where or how these features are disclosed. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited paragraphs of Hillis merely describe a graphical user interface, and are silent as to a database which includes a type determining function that determines a component suitable for processing.

At page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner also asserts that Hillis teaches determining means for searching out components suitable for processing from among components held in a database, where the determining means reads a determining function entry from the database, reads a type determining function that the determining function entry indicates as a reference, and applies file information of a file subject to processing to the determining function and determines the file information, citing paragraph [0366] of Hillis for support. Again, the Examiner does not explain his assertion, and it is not apparent how these features are disclosed in the cited paragraph. Applicants submit that the cited paragraph merely describes a process of enriching data by adding annotations to information, and is silent as to a type determining function and a determining function entry.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Hillis fails to disclose or suggest a data processing apparatus which includes a component database that stores a plurality of processing components, each of which performs a predetermined process, a plurality of type determining functions, corresponding to the plurality of processing components, and a plurality of type determining function entries that refer to the plurality of type determining functions, and which also includes a determiner that searches through the plurality of processing components by reading at least one of the plurality of type determining function entries, reading at least one type determining function referred to by the at least one read type determining function entry, and determining whether a stored processing component corresponding to the at least one read type determining function is suitable for use as a processing component, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 13.

Applicants also submit that Hillis fails to disclose or suggest a data processing method which includes storing, in a component database, a plurality of processing components, each of which performs a predetermined process, a plurality of type determining functions, corresponding to the plurality of processing components, and a plurality of type determining function entries that refer to the plurality of type determining functions, and which includes searching through the plurality of processing components by reading at least one of the plurality of type determining function entries, reading at least one type determining function referred to by the at least one read type determining function entry, and determining whether a stored processing component

corresponding to the at least one read type determining function is suitable for use as a processing component, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 22.

Further, Applicants submit that Hillis fails to disclose or suggest a computer-readable medium which stores a data processing program, where the program includes storing code that stores, in a component database, a plurality of processing components, each of which performs a predetermined process, a plurality of type determining functions, corresponding to the plurality of processing components, and a plurality of type determining function entries that refer to the plurality of type determining functions, and also includes searching code that searches through the plurality of processing components by reading at least one of the plurality of type determining function entries, reading at least one type determining function referred to by the at least one read type determining function entry, and determining whether a stored processing component corresponding to the at least one read type determining function is suitable for use as a processing component, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 23.

Applicants submit that the inventions recited in claims 13-32 are directed towards statutory subject matter. In this regard, Applicants submit that the inventions recited in claims 13-32 produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result, in that they effectively search for and determine a processing component for processing data.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 13, 22 and 28 are allowable, and respectfully request that the Examiner indicate as such in the next Office communication.

Dependent claims 14-21, 23-27 and 29-32 are also submitted to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 13, 22 and 28, from which they depend.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

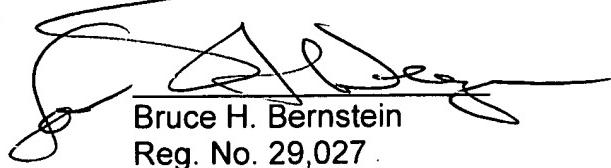
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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